

# **SUMMARY OF THE OIL & GREASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

The purpose of this summary is to present an overview of the Oil & Grease Management Program for the City of Orlando. The Oil & Grease Management Program overview is followed by a brief description of each element for the new wastewater program.

One of the remaining major point sources of pollution is overflows from the sanitary sewer system. In most cases, these overflows are preventable. In response to the mandate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) initiated a statewide program to prevent sewer system overflows, which can contaminate storm water systems, lakes and other surface waters, and pose public health problems. The primary cause of sewer system overflows is the discharge of excessive amounts of oils & greases to the wastewater system. Oil & grease creates clogs in the collection system and forms layers in lift stations, which renders the float system inoperable.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Oil & Grease Management Program include:

- Comply with FDEP regulations and directives;
- Eliminate sewer system overflows;
- Reduce the amount of oils & greases discharged to the collection system;
- Reduce maintenance costs for the wastewater system;
- Improve operation of the collection system; and
- Improve wastewater service.

EPA and FDEP have concluded that pollution of storm water systems and surface waters, such as lakes and streams, would be reduced significantly with control of this remaining point source. Furthermore, this type of pollution is readily preventable, and yields a net benefit of lower operating and maintenance costs for the City's wastewater system through source control by the user.

## **PROGRAM CRITERIA**

Nonresidential users with the potential to contribute oil & grease, including animal fats, vegetable oils and petroleum (hydrocarbon) based products to the City's wastewater system will be eligible for the new Oil & Grease Management Program. Nonresidential and certain residential users that discharge less than 10,000 gallons per day (gpd) to the wastewater system will participate in the Oil & Grease Management Program. Nonresidential users that discharge more than 10,000 gpd to the wastewater system will be defined as significant commercial users and will be in the Surcharge Program. The Director of Public Works will have the discretion of assigning a user to a specific program.

Nonresidential and residential users that may be in the new Oil & Grease Management Program include: food preparation facilities, such as; restaurants, fast food outlets, hotels, motels, tourist attractions, movie theaters, nursing homes, assisted living residences, food preparation enterprises, and Community Centers; automobile related enterprises, such as; car washes, auto repair shops, auto dealerships, auto service centers, car rental agencies, transportation facilities, fleet maintenance facilities, truck stops and commercial laundries; residential users and multifamily dwellings, such as; duplexes, townhouses, condominiums, apartment buildings, apartment complexes or areas of intensified dwelling.

## **PROGRAM ELEMENTS**

The focus of the new Oil & Grease Management Program is the proper operation and maintenance of grease maintenance devices. By contrast, the focus of the new Surcharge Program will be the equitable cost recovery for excessive loadings of compatible pollutants, such as BOD<sub>5</sub>, and TSS.

The elements of the Oil & Grease Management Program include:

- Initial registration;
- Design and construction standards;
- Operating and maintenance standards;
- Self-reporting;
- Periodic facility compliance inspections;
- Program fees; and
- Public education.

A registration certificate will be issued to each user following completion of an information survey and an initial facility visit. Photographs should be included whenever possible. The registration process presents the first opportunity for the City to perform public education with the user. The registration certificate shall be issued for a time not longer than five years from the date of issue. This allows the City to update the information survey.

Minimum design and construction standards should be established for the different types of grease management devices. The design and construction standards will be based on the latest version of the Plumbing Code and engineering standards for other jurisdictions. In general, under-the-sink grease traps would be prohibited for new facilities. The Public Works Department or Building Department would be responsible for design (plan) review and inspections of new construction.

The user will be required to pump-out and clean the grease management device on a regularly scheduled basis, and report the activity to the City. The user will be required to keep a service log of maintenance activities. The user will self-report compliance by either faxing the Haulers Manifest/*User Compliance Report* to the City @ 407/246-2886 or return by mail to Environmental Control Section at 5100 L.B. McLeod Road Orlando Florida 32811. Both the user and hauler will be required to sign the *User Compliance Report*. The user will be required to retain records for at least 3 years and make the files available for inspection by the City.

Waste haulers will be required to remove the entire contents from the grease management device and to clean the walls and other parts of the device. The waste hauler will be required to sign the *User Compliance Report/Hauler Manifest* following each pump-out. The *User Compliance Report / Hauler Manifest* contains a certification statement that states the grease management device was serviced and cleaned properly. The *Hauler Manifest* will be used to track the wastes from cradle to grave in an attempt to minimize illegal discharges to the wastewater system or improper maintenance of the grease management devices. The user, waste hauler and treatment/disposal facility will receive a copy of the *Hauler Manifest* for their records.

The City will conduct random facility compliance inspections to verify that the grease management device is being properly operated and maintained. The Sewer Use Ordinance (Chapter 30) contains specific criteria for the grease layer and the solids blanket to meet for compliance. Public education will be performed during the facility visits to help the user comply with the requirements of the Oil & Grease Management Program.

The nominal monthly program fee of \$20 per grease interceptor or private wastewater collection system will fund implementation of the Oil & Grease Management Program. The program fee will be included on the monthly OUC statement.

Public education is one of the cornerstones for a successful Oil & Grease Management Program. Public education will range from how to properly self-report maintenance activities to information on best management practices. All of the public education workshops and handouts will be designed to assist the user to effectively comply with the program requirement in an economical manner. A brochure and wall posters describing proper maintenance of grease management devices and best management practices will be available shortly.

Best management practices for oil & grease programs include:

- Pollution prevention;
- Waste minimization;
- Spill prevention, containment and clean-up;
- Recycling used oils & greases (wastes);
- Food preparation practices;
- Housekeeping and kitchen practices;
- Restricted use of garbage grinders; and
- Employee training programs.

Pollution prevention and waste minimization strategies offer the best opportunity to reduce contributions of oil & grease to the wastewater system. Implementation of these strategies and diligent follow through by management with employees will keep grease and solids out of the grease management devices and lower overall maintenance costs.

One of the most effective best management practices is scrapping food wastes into a garbage container before placing the dishes in the dishwasher. This practice removes both grease and solids from the waste stream.

Best management practices are never effective if the employees do not follow the guidelines and are diligent in their efforts. Employee training programs reinforce the concepts and focus attention on the daily routines to implement the best management practices. Employee training should be conducted on a regular basis.

Should a user have any questions, need additional information or request public education materials, they may call the Environmental Control Section @ 407/246-2664 between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.; and ask to speak with Dan Dashtaki, Environmental Manager, Thea Parslow, Senior Environmental Specialist, or Erik L. Melear, P.E., Special Projects Manager.

Questions about the Surcharge Program should be addressed to Dan Dashtaki, Environmental Manager, or Thea Parslow, Senior Environmental Specialist.